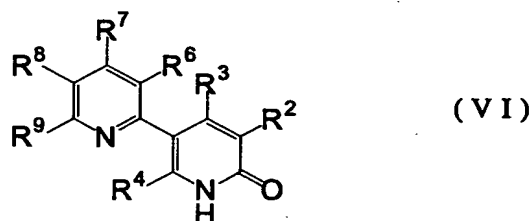


# Claims

1. A production method of a 5-(2'-pyridyl)-2-pyridone derivative represented by the formula (VI)



5 wherein

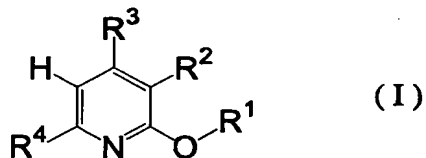
R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>

are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s), an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkoxyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryloxy group optionally having substituent(s), or R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s), and

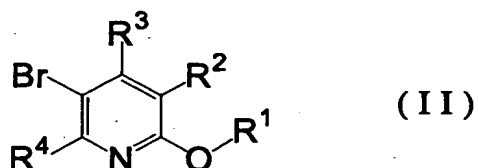
R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup>

are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup>, or R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> optionally form, together with a carbon atom bonded thereto, a ring optionally having substituent(s),

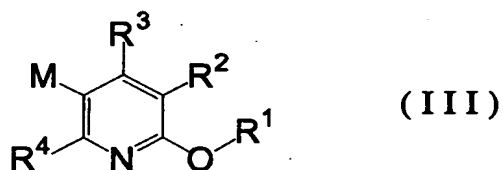
20 which comprises reacting a pyridine derivative represented by the formula (I)



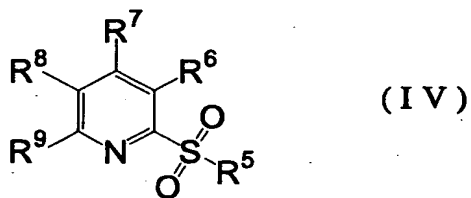
wherein R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above, with a brominating agent to give a 5-bromopyridine derivative represented by the formula (II)



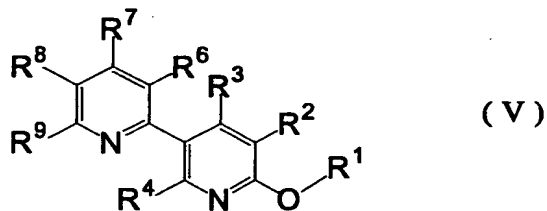
wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above, reacting the  
 obtained 5-bromopyridine derivative (II) with a metallizing  
 agent to give an organometallic compound represented by the  
 5 formula (III)



wherein M is a metal atom belonging to group 1 or 2 of the  
 periodic table, and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are as defined above,  
 reacting the obtained organometallic compound (III) with a 2-  
 10 sulfonylpyridine derivative represented by the formula (IV)



wherein R<sup>5</sup> is an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s)  
 or an aryl group optionally having substituent(s), and R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>,  
 R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are as defined above, to give a 6-alkoxy-3,2'-  
 15 bipyridine derivative represented by the formula (V)



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>9</sup> are as defined above,  
 and hydrolyzing the obtained 6-alkoxy-3,2'-bipyridine  
 20 derivative (V).

2. The production method of claim 1, wherein the

organometallic compound is a compound of the formula (III)  
wherein M is a lithium atom or a magnesium atom.

3. The production method of claim 1 or 2, wherein, in the  
5 formula (VI),  $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$ ,  $R^6$ ,  $R^7$ ,  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each a hydrogen  
atom.